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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Letter dated 6 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to write to you in your capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations regarding the Report on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (E/2005/47), which in II.B.1 refers to the declaration by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that international labour conventions are "applicable under article 35 of the constitution of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to ... the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)".

In that connection, the Argentine Government considers it appropriate to recall that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgias and South Sandwich and the surrounding maritime areas are part of the Argentine national territory and, being illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, are subject to a sovereignty dispute between the two countries, that is recognized as such by a variety of international organizations.

In this regard, the General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, in which it recognizes the existence of the sovereignty dispute regarding the question of the Malvinas Islands and urges the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to proceed without delay with negotiations with a view to finding a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the dispute. The United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization has repeatedly made declarations in this regard, most recently

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through the resolution adopted on 15 June 2005. Likewise, on 7 June 2005, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted a new declaration (AG/DEC.44 (XXXV-0/05)) on the question in similar terms.

I would therefore be grateful if you would take account of the fact that the Government of Argentina rejects the claim made by the United Kingdom that the conventions and any other norms adopted by the ILO are applicable in the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, because they are part of the Argentine national territory. We also request that the necessary steps be taken to ensure that all references to the Malvinas Islands in the official documentation of the Council conform to the provisions on bilingual terminology contained in Editorial directive ST/CS/SER.A/42 of 3 August 1999 of the United Nations Secretariat as "Falkland Islands (Malvinas) in English and Islas Malvinas (Falkland Islands)" in Spanish, and making special reference, in a footnote, to the existence of a dispute between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Argentina regarding the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands.

The Government of Argentina would be grateful if the present note were circulated as an official document of the Economic and Social Council and a corrected version of document E/2005/47 published employing the bilingual terminology and footnote as specified in the above-mentioned Editorial Directive.

(*Signed*) César **Mayoral**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative